Rollcall Vote No. 9: On Passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009—"nay."

Rollcall Vote No. 10: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Gaza, reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process—"yea."

HAL ELLIS JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mr. Hal Ellis, Jr. Mr. Ellis contributed immeasurably to the development and economic growth of the 9th Congressional District. He was a devoted community leader, creative and innovative entrepreneur, and a great source of support and encouragement to those who knew him. Our community said goodbye to Hal on January 6, 2009, after a courageous five-year battle with metastatic melanoma.

Hal Ellis was born on August 4, 1931 to Harold and Bertha Ellis in Portland, Oregon. However, his family moved to Oakland, California just two years later in 1933. For this reason, and as a result of the endless dedication and compassion Mr. Ellis exhibited for the Oakland community throughout his life, everyone considered Hal a native "Oaklander."

Hal graduated from Piedmont High School in 1949 and received a Bachelors Degree from the prestigious University of California, Berkeley in 1953. He was a member of the legendary 1951 and 1952 Cal Bears football teams under the leadership of Coach Pappy Waldorf, affectionately known as "Pappy's Boys." While at Cal, Mr. Ellis also served as President of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. In 1955, Mr. Ellis graduated from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and then went on to serve his country for two years in the United States Air Force as an intelligence officer stationed in Morocco.

Mr. Ellis was ambitious and driven from a very young age. In 1958, at the age of 27, Mr. Ellis co-founded Grubb & Ellis Co. along with his business partners Don and John Grubb. Mr. Ellis guided the company as its Chairman and CEO, bringing others up with him as he led the company through countless successful ventures. In the following decades, Mr. Ellis would become one of the most prolific and iconic real estate developers in the Greater Bay Area.

Mr. Ellis directly oversaw the growth of his company from a small Oakland development firm into a national diversified real estate company. Most influential to the lives of residents in my district, the work that Mr. Ellis' company performed and the vision Mr. Ellis had for the architectural and urban integrity of our area dramatically reshaped downtown Oakland, California. Nationally, his company would grow to such influence that it was listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Ellis' keen business sense and tireless dedication elevated his company to the prominent position as the largest independently owned, publicly traded real estate firm in the United States. Today, the company boasts 130 offices world-wide.

Sixteen years ago, Mr. Ellis co-founded Ellis Partners LLC with his daughter, Melinda and his son, James. Ellis Partners LLC has, in its own right, become one of California's largest commercial developers and investors. Hal also formed Catalist Homes, which reflected his vision for the future of the residential real estate industry by creating a model of technical intelligence and efficiency.

Although Mr. Ellis' influence and impact was truly phenomenal in scope, his true contribution was the indelible imprint he left on the landscape of Oakland, California. His efforts led to the development of the Oakland City Center and Oakland's Jack London Square. Both of these developments have been and are critical to the vibrancy of a diverse and complex urban area whose residents deserve the opportunity afforded by a healthy local economy where small businesses can thrive.

Mr. Ellis was extremely involved in his community and professional organizations. He was an excited and inspiring individual, always ready to share his vision for the future and work on creative collaborations to bring innovation and growth to the development industry. Hal was a member of the Pacific Union Club, the Claremont Country Club, the World Presidents Organization and several additional real estate industry organizations.

A gentleman with endless optimism and strength, even Mr. Ellis' illness produced in him a sense of urgency to make a difference and advocate on behalf of others suffering from this devastating form of cancer. With the support and partnership of his family members, the University of California, San Francisco and Bain & Company, Mr. Ellis led the efforts to form the Melanoma Therapeutics Foundation. In the hopes of expediting the discovery of a cure for this disease, his family continues to remain involved and encourage support of this important organization in memory of Mr. Ellis.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to thank Hal Ellis' family for sharing this wonderful spirit with us, especially his loving wife of 22 years, Marian Ellis, his sister, Jackie Ellis Leisz, his sons Stephen and James Ellis, his daughters Melinda Ellis Evers, Chantal Lamberto, and Jackie Lamberto, his daughters-in-law Karen and Melissa, sons-in-law Will and Eli, and of course his beloved grandchildren, Katherine, Audrey, Elizabeth, Ryan, Tyler, Gracie, Morgan, and Braydon. Mr. Ellis' legacy will live on through his devoted family and a host of loving friends. May his soul rest in peace.

EXTENDING THE NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT TO THE TERRITORIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend eligibility of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) to Community Development Entities (CDEs) created or organized in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This bill would make a technical correction to existing law governing the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program and specifically authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to certify corporations or partnerships organized in one of the four U.S. territories as entities qualified to participate in the competitive application process for the New Markets Tax Credit.

The Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–554) authorizes the NMTC Program for the purpose of increasing incentives for investment in low-income communities across the country. Under the NMTC Program, certified Community Development Entities (CDEs) are eligible to apply for a New Markets Tax Credit from the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the Department of the Treasury. Taxpayers who then invest in the CDE are allocated some of those credits in return for their investment. The CDE must invest those funds in low-income communities, and the taxpayers are able to claim, over a seven-year period, credits equal to 39 percent of their investment. CDEs act as intermediaries for the provision of loans, investment funding, or financial counseling in low-income communities and are able to legally operate anywhere in the United States, including in the territories.

Despite the ability of a CDE under current law to legally and practically operate in a U.S. territory, a corporation or partnership that is created or organized in a U.S. territory applying for CDE certification cannot qualify for such certification under current law. This ineligibility stems from such organizations being deemed "foreign" and not "domestic" under other relevant provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. This nuance in law effectively prevents local CDEs in the territories, that is, entities who would otherwise be recognized as such by the Department of the Treasury, from investing in their own communities.

The bill I have reintroduced today would rectify this situation, which I recognize to be an oversight of Congress in the enactment of the Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000. The bill would allow for the certification of CDEs created or organized in a U.S. territory thereby enabling them to operate and invest in their own communities. CDEs organized and operating in any one of the several States or the District of Columbia could continue to invest in low-income communities in the territories under this arrangement.

I am joined by Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Mr. PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico, and Mr. SABLAN of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in introducing this bill. We look forward to working with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means to advance this bill and to support increased investment opportunities for our own communities. Ultimately, this bill is about making the New Markets Tax Credit Program work for the territories and ensuring Congressional intent behind the New Markets Tax Credit is fully realized and fulfilled in our communities.